Discussion by Plan Panel

3166. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the long-term and short-term measures adopted, after the meeting of the reconstituted Plan Panel in September 2009, wherein high growth trajectory to revive the slowdown economy, failure of the monsoon and unprecedented droughts and raving floods, were extensively debated;

(b) whether it resulted in revision of Eleventh Plan growth and sectoral targets;

(c) by when the mid-term appraisal will take place to know envisaged targets achieved so far; and

(d) whether such measures will control prices of food items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The first meeting of the newly constituted Full Planning Commission was held on 1st September, 2009 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister. The issues such as deceleration in the growth rate in the Indian Economy on account of global slowdown negative growth rate in the agricultural sector during the current year due to drought, reduction in exports and status implementation of Integrated Energy Policy etc. came up for discussion. Revision of the Eleventh Plan growth and sectoral targets was not discussed in the meeting. The following major conclusions emerged from the discussions:

- There is a need to build on the strengths of the past to tackle the new challenges posed by the global economic slowdown and drought in the current year.
- The consequences of drought can be managed as sufficient food stocks are available. However, there is a need for management of food economy, macro economy, drought and protection of Kharif and Rabi crops.
- Need to converge National Rural Employment Scheme (NREGS) and other agricultural and rural schemes to minimize the impact of drought in 2009-10.
- Reviving investment, containing Fiscal Deficit within the limits of prudence, raising resources and using them efficiently.
- To mobilize resources to sustain the momentum of Planned Development of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) The exercise of mid-term appraisal of the Eleventh Plan is under progress. However, to tackle the situation of rising food prices, measures to augment availability of cereals have been taken by increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement of wheat for additional allocation under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The other measures include the ban on export on wheat and rice, zero import duties on essential food items, permitting the public sector undertakings to import pulses etc. Further, given the situation arising out of economic slowdown and drought situation in the country, Government has taken the policy interventions through its institutional mechanism.